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DE RUEHN #0812 2801716  
ZNR UUUUU ZZH  
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FM AMEMBASSY NIAMEY  
TO RUEHC/SECSTATE WASHDC 5369  
INFO RUEHDS/AMEMBASSY ADDIS ABABA 1670  
RUEHZK/ECOWAS COLLECTIVE  
RHMFSS/HQ USAFRICOM STUTTGART GE

UNCLAS NIAMEY 000812

DEPT FOR AF/W AND AF/RSA  
PLS PASS TO USAID FOR AFR/W  
ACCRA ALSO FOR USAID/WA  
ADDIS ABABA FOR USAU - J MAYBURY  
PARIS FOR AFRICA WATCHER

SIPDIS

E.O. 12958: N/A

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SUBJECT: National Police Prevent Former National Assembly Members  
from Organizing

Ref: Niamey 00618

¶1. On October 6, national police prevented 67 former National Assembly members from accessing the headquarters of the Nigerien Democratic Movement (MODEN), an opposition party created by former Prime Minister Hama Amadou. The former parliamentarians had planned to organize a symbolic "opening of the National Assembly Session" challenging the legislative elections slated for October 20 under the new constitution. Police, seeming to have insider knowledge of the unscheduled event, interrupted their plan by preventing entry to the building. There were no reports of violence or arrests.

¶2. Comment: This attempt to undermine publicly the legitimacy of the GON is not new. On August 24, the Coordination of Forces for Democracy and the Republic (CFDR) held a town hall meeting during which 50 former parliamentarians proposed a resolution to reinstate the National Assembly (reftel). No resolution was enacted, and this second failed attempt illustrates the opposition's inability to de-legitimize the GON. End comment.

WHITAKER